

KEDAH



For further informations, please contact:



Tourism Section
State Economic Planning Unit,
Wisma Darul Aman,
05503 Alor Setar, Kedah Darul Aman.
Tel : 04-700 7113 Fax : 04-733 0908
<http://www.kedah.gov.my>
e-mail:tourism@kedah.gov.my



LEMBAGA PEMBANGUNAN LANGKAWI
LANGKAWI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Tourism Unit
Langkawi Development Authority,
7th & 8th Floor, LADA Complex,
P.O. Box 60, Persiaran Putra,
07007 Kuah, Langkawi, Kedah Darul Aman.
Tel : 04-966 7186/87 Fax : 04-966 2879/7233
<http://www.langkawi-authority.com>
e-mail:lada@tm.net.my



Printed by
TOURISM MALAYSIA
(with the cooperation of KEDAH STATE PLANNING UNIT)

Tourism Malaysia Head Office:
17th Floor, Menara Dato' Onn, Putra World Trade Centre,
45, Jalan Tun Ismail, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.
Tel : 03-293 5188 Fax : 03-293 5884, 293 0207
URL: <http://tourism.gov.my>
e-mail:tourism@tourism.gov.my

All information contained herein is correct at time of production. Whilst every care is taken in the preparation of this brochure, Kedah State Government and LADA cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracy, omission or alteration that may occur.

TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY

Kedah (English) 9/2000

Make

It

Happen

In

**Kedah
Darul Aman**

*Malaysia
Truly Asia*

Langkawi

Langkawi, which has been nicknamed as the "Caribbean of The East", is a cluster of isles basking languidly in glistening waters. Not many island resorts in the region can boast of such pearls of exotic beauty but Langkawi is an enchantingly white stretches of palm-fringed beaches.

It had often been said that many locations within the group of 104 islands make idle settings for a romance novel or swashbuckling movie.

It is hard to imagine that only a decade ago Langkawi is a cluster of fishing villages surrounded by coconut trees, but this is something the visitors must see for themselves.

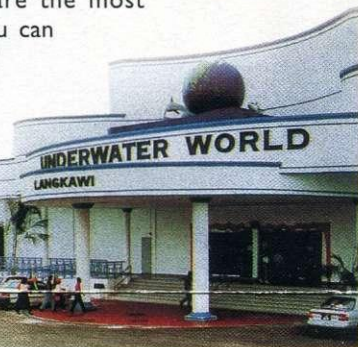
To sum it all, Langkawi is a reclusive retreat for the tired and beaten down corporate executive, an island resort for the entire family, a romantic escapade for honeymooners, a haven for water sports enthusiasts and a sanctuary for sun worshippers. Or in other words - a haven to blend into just for the fun of it all.



Payar Island

The main attractions of Langkawi lies in its undersea treasure of marine life. **Pulau Payar Marine Park** (Payar Island) which is an hour speedboat ride from Pulau Langkawi is regarded as Malaysia's best marine park with an abundance of underwater life.

Snorkelling and diving are the most popular pursuits whereby you can appreciate the colourful and spectacular sea life and corals. For those who do not want to get wet can view the kaleidoscope of colour and shapes of the magnificent fishes from an underwater observation chamber.



Underwater World

At **Laman Padi** or **Rice Garden** visitors can update their knowledge in all aspects of rice farming.

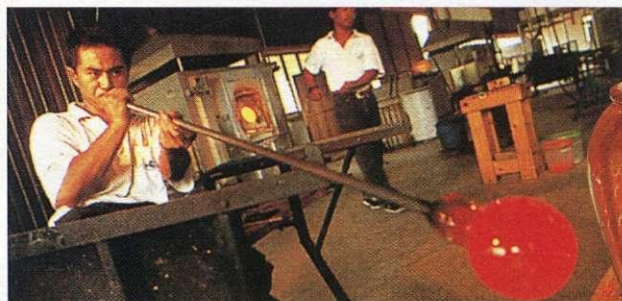
Langkawi is not only a major leisure destination but also boasts an artistic museum of world class status, i.e the **Ibrahim Hussein Museum and Cultural Foundation**. Set in the heart of the lush rainforest atop a cliff overlooking the Datai Bay, the gallery displays fine works of Ibrahim Hussein, Malaysia's most famous contemporary artist.



Laman Padi

The **Langkawi Craft Cultural Complex** at Teluk Yu, showcases the nation's rich cultural heritage. Visitors will be enthralled by the intricate workmanship on display which include wood carving, basketry, embroidery as well as ceramics and crystalwares.

The **Air Hangat Village (Hot Spring Village)** a cultural centre, based around natural hot springs is another favourite stopover. Legend or not, the hot spring water is believed to have healing power and can cure ailments such as rheumatism, arthritis as well as rejuvenate the mind and soul.



Glass blowing technique in crystal making

At **Galeria Perdana** visitors can browse through the display of gifts and souvenirs given to Malaysia's Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad by other world leaders. There are gifts of woodwork, leather, musical instruments, weaponry, Islamic Arts, special awards and a lot more.

Visitors will be fascinated by the art of crystal making at **Langkawi Crystaal**. Here you can witness craftsmen create unique design of crystalware using the traditional glass blowing techniques.



view the kaleidoscope of colour and shapes of the magnificent fishes from an underwater observation chamber.

Underwater World



Lake of the Pregnant Maiden

Visitors can also view other species of aquatic life at the **Underwater World Langkawi**, which is one of the largest oceanariums in Asia. Located at Pantai Cenang, it features more than 5000 marine and freshwater fish such as the exotic Jacks, Seaturtles, Triggers and Damsel Fish. You can also walk through a tunnel tank which contains sharks, snappers, moray eels, giant groupers, etc.



Darul Hana Mosque

A popular tourist spot is the **Mahsuri Mausoleum**. Located about 12 km from Kuah the Mausoleum marks the spot where Mahsuri was buried. According to legend when Mahsuri lay dying after being executed over a false accusation of adultery, she laid a curse on the island that it would not prosper for seven generations. Whatever the

reason, economic or legend, Langkawi's meteoric success only came around recently.

The **Field of Burnt Rice** at Padang Matsirat is another popular tourist venue. According to legend, Langkawi's supply of rice was buried in order to thwart the invading Thai's and cause them to starve. Today burnt rice grains still appear whenever there's a heavy downpour.

Another intriguing legend is the **Lake of the Pregnant Maiden** which is located in the heart of the **Pulau Dayang Bunting (Island of Pregnant Maiden)**, the second largest island after Pulau Langkawi. The lake is a popular place where barren women would come to drink the waters so much so that some people attribute subsequent pregnancy to its mystical powers.

There are also newly created tourist destinations. One of which is the **Book Village Malaysia**. Located about 15 minutes drive from Kuah, amidst tranquil setting of the lush rainforest at the foot of Gunung Raya. The numerous traditional houses dotting the village are stocked with a great variety of books in various languages.

Mohamad by other world leaders. There are gifts of woodwork, leather, musical instruments, weaponry, Islamic Arts, special awards and a lot more.

Visitors will be fascinated by the art of crystal making at **Langkawi Crystaal**. Here you can witness craftsmen create unique design of crystalware using the traditional glass blowing techniques.

Other Langkawi's tourist venues are the Eagle Square, Legend Park, Crocodile Farm and Kedah Marble .

"Island-Hopping" among the 104 isles is another favourite pursuit among tourists. You can explore this maze of islands and be rewarded with secret channels, secluded breathtaking bays and inlets, eerie caves, coves and intriguing legends. At **Pulau Singa Besar** (Singa Besar Island) there's a wild life sanctuary and the sedimentary rocks which reputed to be amongst the oldest in Malaysia going back 500 million years.

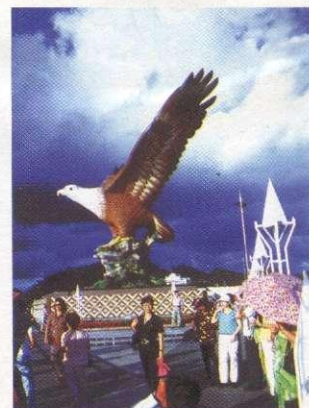
Pulau Rebak is a popular docking place for yachts. Other islands of interest include Pulau Tuba and Pulau Bumbon which are favourite spots for snorkelling, scuba-diving and fishing.

Apart from the fun and adventure amidst nature, another favourite pursuit is none other than shopping. Kuah town is great for duty-free shopping. The plentiful shopping mall's and arcades, strategically located are definitely a shopper's haven. You can browse for gifts and souvenirs that leave unforgettable impressions. Among the favourite choices are crystalwares, silver and brasswares, basketry, ceramics, woodcarvings, hand-painted batik, hand-woven textiles, etc.



Singa Besar Island

Beside duty free goods, another popular purchase among Malaysians is air gamat. Literally translated it means "sea-slung juice" or "sea-cucumber juice" which is renowned as a traditional cure for a number of ailments such as healing cuts and bruises, relieving tiredness and aching muscles, etc. It is even used as a vitality and virility tonic when mixed with other traditional herbs.



Eagle Square

PAYAR ISLAND



MAP OF LANGKAWI



- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Animal Sanctuary | 7 Crocodile Farm | 13 Durian Perangin Waterfall | 19 Ancient Tomb (Makam Purb) | 25 Galeria Perdana |
| 2 CHOGM Park | 8 Temurun Waterfall | 14 Kedah Marble | 20 Gua Langsuar | 26 Eagle Square/Legend Park |
| 3 Laman Padi | 9 Pantai Pasir Hitam | 15 Langkawi Crystal | 21 Sangkar Ikan Langkawi | 27 Kompleks Budaya Kraf Langkawi (Craft Cultural Complex) |
| 4 Atma Alam (Batik Art Village) | 10 Pantai Tanjung Rhu | 16 Lake Of Pregnant Maiden | 22 Datal Bay Golf Club | 28 Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC) |
| 5 Underwater World | 11 Gua Cerita | 17 Mahsuri Mausoleum | 23 Aquabeat | |
| 6 Telaga Tujuh (Seven Wells) | 12 Air Hangat Village | 18 Book Village Malaysia | 24 Langkawi Golf Club | |



ACCOMMODATION

NAME	TELEPHONE
Alor Setar	
Holiday Villa	04-734 9999
Sentosa Regency Hotel	04-733 0372
Seri Malaysia Hotel	04-730 8737
Hotel Grand Continental	04-733 5917
Hotel Grand Crystal	04-731 3333
Samila Hotel	04-731 8888
Grand Jubli Hotel	04-733 0055
Miramar Hotel	04-733 8144
Royale Hotel	04-733 0922
Hotel Seberang Perak	04-772 2268
	04-772 4329
Flora Inn	04-732 2375
Regent Hotel	04-731 1900
Sungai Petani	
Swiss Inn	04-422 3333
Sungai Petani Inn	04-421 3411
Park Avenue	04-431 7777
Cinta Sayang Golf & Country Club	04-441 4666
Pantai Merdeka Resort	04-437 5588
M.S Garden Hotel	04-431 5555
Seri Malaysia Hotel	04-423 4060
Gurun	
Peranginan Gunung Jerai	04-423 4345
Jitra	
Hosba Valley Resort	04-916 1977
Sintok	
The Universiti Hotel UUM	04-924 4982
Pedu Lake	
Pedu Golf & Lake Resort	04-730 4888
Desa Utara Pedu Lake Resort	04-732 8888
Baling	
Seri Baling Inn	04-470 5971
Sik	
Rumah Rehat Sik	04-469 4288
Kulim	
Kulim Inn	04-490 0420
Langkawi	
Pelangi Beach Resort	04 - 955 1001
Burau Bay Resort, Langkawi	04 - 959 1061
Tanjung Rhu Resort	04 - 959 1091
Sheraton Perdana Resort	04 - 966 2020
The Datai	04 - 959 2500
The Andaman, Datai Bay	04 - 959 1088
Berjaya Langkawi Beach and Spa Resort	04 - 959 1888
Sheraton Langkawi Beach Resort	04 - 955 1901
The City Bayview Hotel	04 - 966 1818
Langkasuka Resort	04 - 955 6888
Langkawi Holiday Villa	04 - 955 1701

Rebak Marina Resort	04 - 966 5566
Helang Hotel	04 - 962 2020
Awana Porto Malai	04 - 955 5111
Singgahsana KUB Resort	04 - 955 6262
The Lanai Langkawi Beach Resort	04 - 955 2262
Grand Continental Langkawi	04 - 966 0333
Tiara Langkawi	04 - 966 2566
The Gates Langkawi	04 - 966 8466
Aseania Seaview Resort	04 - 955 2020
Beringin Beach Resort	04 - 966 6966
Langkawi Seaview Hotel	04 - 966 0600
Nagoya City Hotel	04 - 966 0480
Panorama Langkawi Country Resort	04 - 955 2721
Kampung Tok Senik Resort	04 - 955 7288
Twin Peaks Island Resort	04 - 966 8255
Langkawi Village Resort	04 - 955 1511
Tanjung Sanctuary	04 - 955 2977

GETTING THERE

Kedah can be reached by road, rail and sea. The North-South Expressway transverse the State of Kedah, thus enabling just a 5 hour ride from Kuala Lumpur to Alor Setar. Similarly the national railroad track also passes through the state with various stops along the way.

Malaysia Airlines, the national carrier fly several times a day from Kuala Lumpur to Alor Setar and Langkawi. There's also weekly direct flight from Osaka, Japan to Langkawi.

High speed ferries operate from Kuala Kedah to Langkawi throughout the day. There are also regular ferry services from Penang as well as Satun, Southern Thailand.

Travellers have a wide range of transportation to choose from. Comfortable air-conditioned express coaches and long distance taxis are readily available thus providing easy connection throughout the countries. Getting around the state too is no hassle. Taxis and hire car are easily available at reasonable fares.

Nature And Adventure

BEACHES AND ISLANDS

One of Kedah Darul Aman's greatest lure is perhaps its rustic charm and the many exotic natural attractions. Visitors will be taken in by the lush green of tropical rainforests, the misty mountains, the serenity of the rural villages and the endless spread of the padi fields.

Kedah is one of the best destination for those seeking retreat from urban living as its pristine environment is still intact despite the development taking place in the state. The Pedu Golf & Lake Resort and Desa Utara Pedu Lake Resort, which are located about 90km from Alor Setar, are examples of the peaceful and quiet holiday in store for visitors. Nestled amidst lush tropical greens, the resorts offer tourists "a get back to nature" vacation. A series of activities are there for the taking including jungle walk (day and night), mountain hiking, fishing and a new found nature sport - lake swimming.

Take a boat ride and explore the vast lake or just enjoy the sun. Play golf at one of the best designed golf course around. Also witness the honey gathering process conducted by local bee handlers. Watch how the experts retrieve honey from the 30 metres high Tualang tree in the wilderness of Pedu jungle. This activity is being held once a year ie. in the month of February. Look out for the flora and fauna.



Pedu Golf & Lake Resort



Desa Utara Pedu Lake Resort



Gunung Jerai

The charm of Kedah also lies in the blissfully golden beaches and paradise islands. The very mention of beaches and islands one's mind would naturally linger to the legendary isle of Langkawi. One of Langkawi's best beaches is Tanjung Rhu which is located 22 km from Kuah.

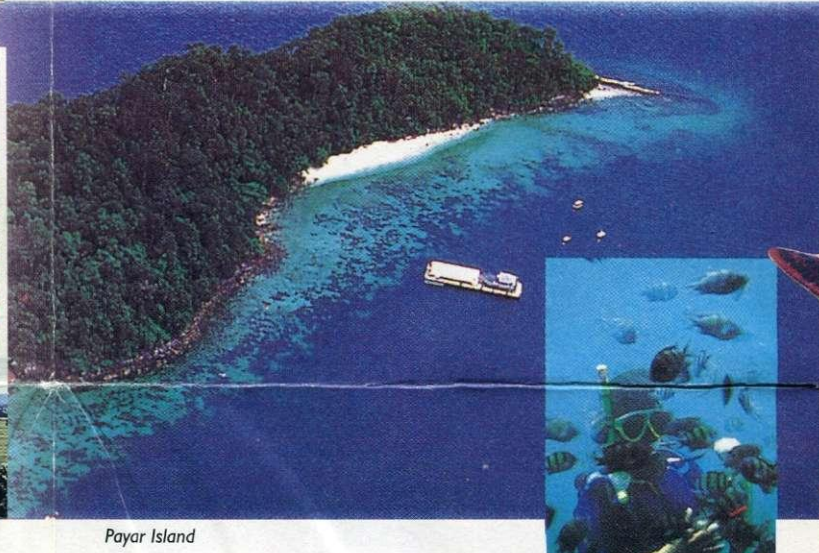


Tanjung Rhu Beach

Pantai Cenang, about 18.4 km from Kuah is the liveliest stretch on the island with restaurants and food outlets offering wide selection of local treats as well as continental fare. This long stretch of white sandy beach flanked by coconut palms provide ample lodging facilities ranging from simple A-frame huts to five star luxury hotels. Further south of Pantai Cenang is Pantai Tengah with more lodgings and souvenir outlets.

The most ideal retreat for sunbathing and swimming is Pantai Kok which is 24.8 km away from Kuah. The crystal clear water and the white powdering sand infringed by swaying palms are indeed a natural haven for those seeking solitude.

The 1.5 km long stretch of white sandy beach of Datai Bay is another tranquil retreat. The Golf Club, Datai Bay offers players breathtaking beauty as well as a quality golfing experience.



Payar Island



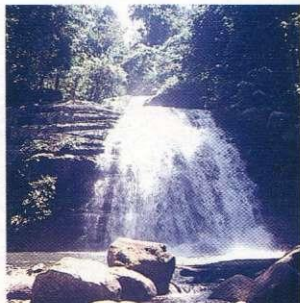
Gunung Jerai



Another nature retreat is the Gunung Jerai Resort near Gurun. A hill getaway, it is tucked amidst a green tropical rainforest spread. The crisp clear mountain air is aided by a peaceful tranquility which will easily appeal to any visitor. See the flower garden or explore the nearby waterfall, an ideal location for a picnic as one make a date with nature.

Other idyllic spots are Bukit Hijau (Baling), Bukit Wang (Jitra) Peranginan Sik (Sik), Puncak Janing (near Kuala Nerang), Batu Hampar (Yan) and Gunung Keriang Recreation Park. Each of them has its own unique attraction which beckon visitors.

Bukit Hijau Waterfall



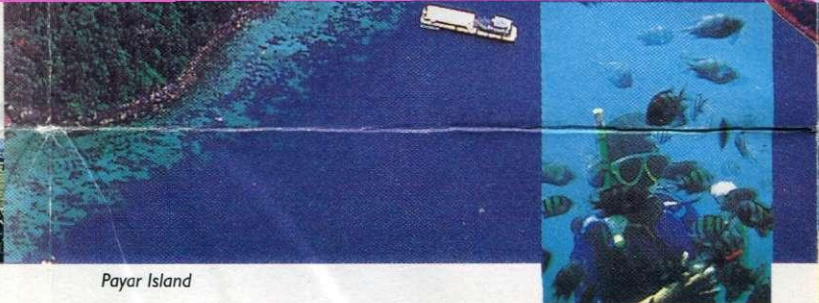
Gunung Keriang Recreation Park



Tangga Kenari 1000 years

Kedah's natural beauty is not only confined to the outdoors. Its wonders are also found in intriguing caves nestled in gigantic limestone outcrops of Kedah. Created over million of years, these fascinating caves are indeed geological masterpieces of nature.

Having all the ingredients that make it an ideal haven for an adventure holiday, varied landscape, superb natural settings, year round sunshine, Kedah is the ultimate destination for the eco-tourists.



Payar Island

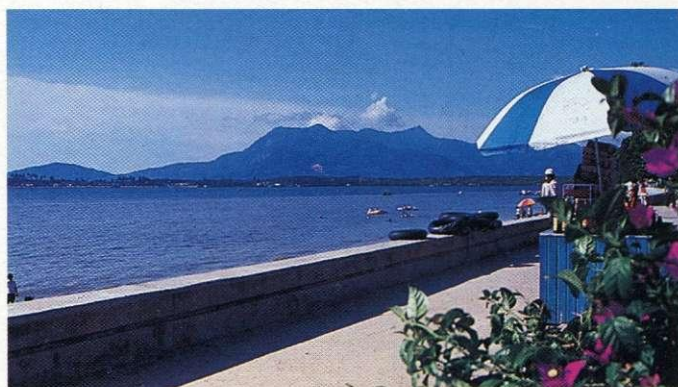
The main island of Pulau Langkawi is no doubt famed for its breathtaking landscapes, ancient myths and legends. Similarly the 104 isles that make up Pulau Langkawi are endowed with unexplored wonders. Pulau Dayang Bunting, Pulau Tuba, Pulau Singa Besar, Pulau Rebak to name a few are among the most well - known.

The islands are perfect venues to indulge in water - based recreational pursuits such as wind surfing, canoeing, snorkelling, scuba diving and sailing. There are also island cruises or expeditions and visitors can enjoy the archipelago while sitting back and enjoying the scenic view. You can also explore the marvels of these islands yourself by means of mountain biking or jungle trekking.



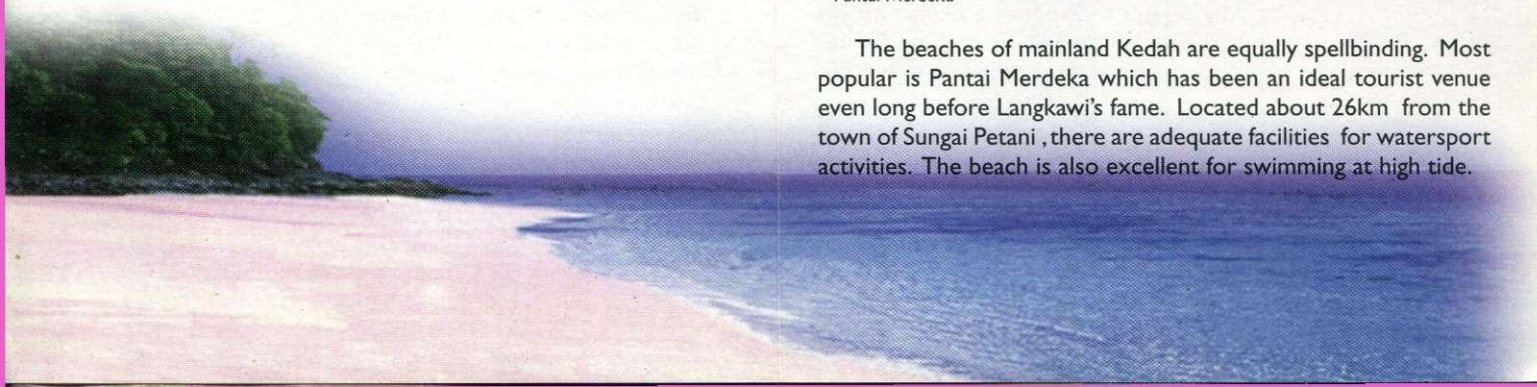
Wooden walkways at Pulau Singa Besar

Or if you choose to engage in less vigorous activities, you may enjoy the wide variety of indoor activities that are offered. For those who want to be pampered after a long day of exciting activities, the service of massuers are available.



Pantai Merdeka

The beaches of mainland Kedah are equally spellbinding. Most popular is Pantai Merdeka which has been an ideal tourist venue even long before Langkawi's fame. Located about 26km from the town of Sungai Petani, there are adequate facilities for watersport activities. The beach is also excellent for swimming at high tide.



CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Being a multi-racial state of Malays, Chinese, Indians and Thais, Kedah is naturally multi-cultural. Although Islam is the national religion, freedom of worship is guaranteed. Bahasa Malaysia is the national language. However English is widely spoken.



Traditional Performances

The cultural diversity of Kedah is best reflected in its tradition, the minute details of architecture and life style. Among the local traditional songs and dances which are reflective of daily lives of the common people are Tarian Cinta Sayang, Lagu-lagu Berendoi, Wayang Kulit, etc. The Silat, which is a form of traditional Malay self defence is also popular in Kedah. It comes in various forms and normally performed at various occasions such as weddings and functions.

The best starting point to explore the cultural heritage of Kedah is Alor Setar itself, the state's capital. The numerous fine, old buildings such as Balai Besar, Balai Seni Negeri, Masjid Zahir, Courthouse, General Post Office defined the atmosphere of colonial rule and representing one of the oldest landmarks of Alor Setar.



State Art Gallery

An insight into Kedah's rich cultural heritage can be sampled by visiting the State's Museum. The museum houses a collection of artifacts, fine paintings and a wide range of historical relics. Being the oldest state, Kedah has plenty of these memorable, precious antiques on display.



State Museum



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Kedah is a haven for sports enthusiasts or those seeking recreational holidays. Most hotels and resorts are well laid out with amenities and infrastructures for visitors to partake in any activities be it water based, out door or golfing.

With a natural setting of varied landscape and sunshine all year round, Kedah hosts a wide range of challenging sports events. Information pertaining to the annual calendar event is easily obtainable at any of the hotels in which the visitors are put up.

Over the years Kedah has been gearing itself for all types of outdoor sports and recreational with a focus on water based activities. Wind surfing, canoeing, swimming, board sailing, pleasure cruises, rock climbing, jungle trekking are some of the activities which are popular among tourists. There are also jet-skiing, scuba diving and snorkelling. The sea and the inland lakes are idle venues for such activities.

Whether you opt for golfing or scuba diving, wind surf with the trade winds, test your endurance and stamina on a gruelling mountain trek or idle on golden sandy beach beneath a gently swaying palm tree, there are plenty more activities to experience while in Kedah. The tropically landscaped golf courses of Kedah offer unique golfing experience. Golfers will definitely be rewarded with great round of golf at various championship held throughout the year.



Golfing at one of Kedah Golf Club



Snorkelling at Pulau Tuba



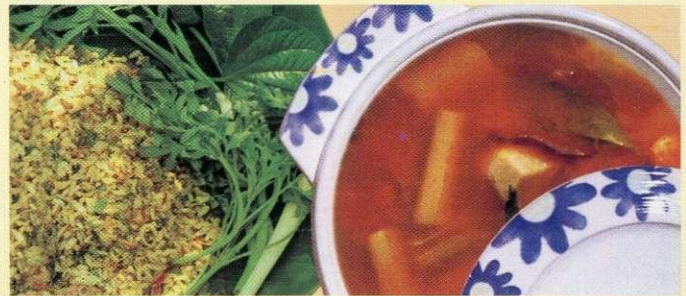
White water rafting at Sedim River

Or just wait for the end of the year when the biannually held Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition or known as LIMA, is held in the tourism island of Langkawi. This is the region's showcase of the latest in aerospace, naval and air defence and civil aviation.

Catch the daily air shows or get on board some of the best naval ships from participating countries. Another prestigious happening in Langkawi is the "Le Tour De Langkawi" which is flagged off in Kedah. The cycling event, which is a gathering of some of the best pedal power in the world, is fast becoming another "Tour De France" in an the world cycling map. Fishing is another sport which could be a hit with visitors as there are a wide variety of freshwater fish in Kedah.

FOOD

Malaysians need no introduction to the delectable array of mouth-watering recipes of Kedah cuisine which had never failed to spice the gastronomic appetites of gourmets nationwide. Kedah cuisine is not only unique as it could appeal to the whole wide range of food lovers but they are prepared fast enough to whet the appetite of everybody. Being a multi-ethnic community state, there are a wide range of Malay, Chinese, Indian and Thai cuisine to choose from.



Nasi Ulam and Sayur Keladi

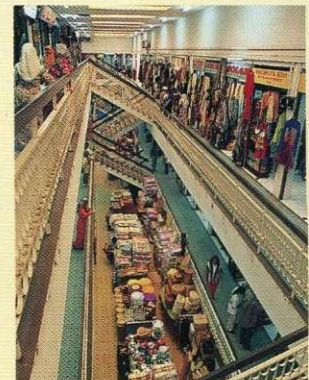


Traditional Cakes

Specially prepared authentic dishes comprising a combination of spices, herbs and market fresh ingredients will tempt any visitor to the state. Rice is the staple food of Kedahans. Traditional local dishes which are also favourites among visitors are "gulai nangka" (a jack fruit curry), "sayur keladi" and "pekasam". "Nasi ulam" is another local food which is equally tantalising. This authentic dish is prepared by blending rice with varied fresh veges and spices. Among the locals, nasi ulam is a must on the menu particularly during the fasting month of Ramadhan.

Pulut or glutinous rice is an all time favourite of the northerners. It is taken with fruits such as mango, durian and even banana. They also make fine desert after a hefty dinner or lunch. Other pulut delicacies are "pulut sambal", "pulut inti" and "tapai pulut". However, it is not complete if visitors fail to try the famous "Laksa"-rice noodles taken with a preparation of thick fish gravy and cucumber, onion and shoots.

Make a stop at Pekan Rabu in Alor Setar for traditional crafts, souvenirs and also traditional Malay sweet cakes. Most sought after cakes are "baulu" and the "dodol"-a preparation of coconut, sugar and flour.



Pekan Rabu

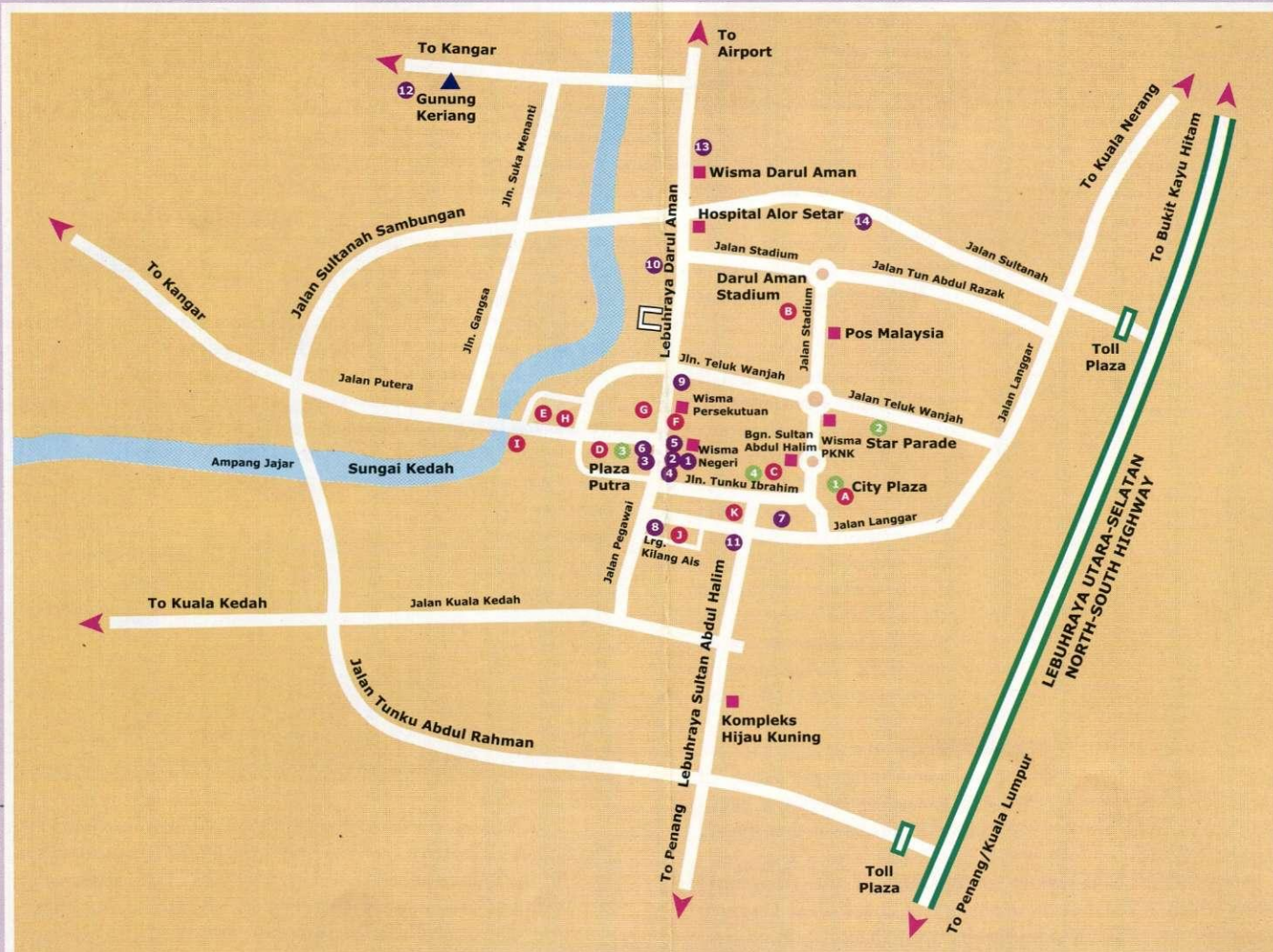
MAP OF KEDAH DARUL AMAN



PLACES OF INTEREST

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Black Forest Golf Club | 7 Kuala Kedah Fort | 13 Homestay Programme Kg. Raga | 19 Tanjung Dawai | 25 Sg. Sedim |
| 2 Puncak Janing Waterfall | 8 Pekan Rabu | 14 Batu Hampar Recreation Park | 20 Pantai Merdeka | 26 Kulim Hi-Tech |
| 3 Bukit Wang Recreation Park | 9 Ahning Lake | 15 Tangga Kenari 1000 Tahun | 21 Cinta Sayang Golf Club | 27 Kulim Golf Club |
| 4 Darul Aman Golf Club | 10 Pedu Golf & Lake Resort | 16 Lembah Bujang | 22 Lata Bayu Waterfall | 28 Junjong Recreation Waterfall |
| 5 Kepala Batas (Airport) | 11 Desa Utara Pedu Lake Resort | 17 Harvard Golf Club | 23 Ulu Legong Hot Spring | 29 Homestay Programme Relau |
| 6 Paddy Museum | 12 Perangin Sik | 18 Permaipura Golf Club | 24 Lata Bukit Hijau Waterfall | 30 Serdang Lake |

ALOR SETAR TOWN



PLACES OF INTEREST

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Muzium Di Raja (Royal Museum) | 9 Alor Setar Tower |
| 2 Balai Besar (Great Hall) | 10 State Museum |
| 3 Masjid Zahir (Zahir Mosque) | 11 Wan Mat Saman Canal |
| 4 Balai Seni Negeri (State Art Gallery) | 12 Gunung Keriang |
| 5 Balai Nobat (Nobat Tower) | 13 Kampung Melayu |
| 6 Balai Jam (Clock Tower) | 14 Rumah Rakan Kedah |
| 7 Pekan Rabu | |
| 8 Mahathir's Place of Birth | |

HOTELS

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| A Holiday Villa | I Royale Hotel |
| B Seri Malaysia | J Seberang Perak Hotel |
| C Grand Continental | K Flora Inn |
| D Grand Crystal | |
| E Sentosa Regency Hotel | |
| F Samila Hotel | |
| G Grand Jubli Hotel | |
| H Miramar Hotel | |

SHOPPING COMPLEX

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| 1 City Plaza |
| 2 Star Parade (Pacific Hypermarket) |
| 3 Plaza Putra |
| 4 Kedah Supermarket |

THE EARLY HISTORY

Kedah, by virtue of research and historical findings, is the most ancient state in the country. The present Royal family can trace back its line to the Hindu times. Situated on one of the main transit routes across the Peninsular on the great East-West trade route, the state has become a prosperous centre for settlement and trade in the old days. Some of the earliest known stone age artifacts and sites are located in Kedah and it is a state which has remnants from the Hindu-Buddhist period in Malaysian history. This is reflected in the numerous temple sites in the Bujang Valley.

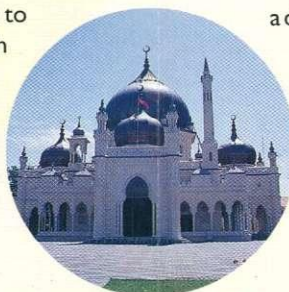


Bujang Valley Archeological Museum

It was a centre which attracted traders who travelled between China and India. The Bujang Valley was an ideal "resting destination" then while waiting for the monsoon to change. History has it that in 671 AD, a Buddhist

monk from China, I.T.Tsing, stopped at Bujang Valley. Archeologists had unearthed evidence of Hindu civilisation at the location which is home to more than 50 Hindu temples. A visit to the Bujang Valley will unravel a story about Kedah civilisation. The Kedah Sultanate began at Bukit Meriam which is located in the district of Kuala Muda. Maharaja Derbar Raja was the first ruler who converted to Islam and changed his name to Sultan Muzaffar Shah. He ruled Kedah from 1136 AD to 1179 AD and was

laid to rest at the Kampung Langgar, Mukim Bujang. Since then, there has been 27 Sultans who ruled Kedah. Before Sultan Muzaffar, Kedah had been ruled by eight Maharajas and this is an evidence to show that the Kedah Sultanate is the oldest Sultanate in the region.



Zahir Mosque



A scenic view of padi fields

ECONOMY

Although predominantly an agriculture-based State, Kedah is undergoing rapid development in all sectors. With sound economic planning and a supportive policy environment, the State has successfully utilised its advantageous location and rich human and natural resources to create a broadly diversified economy. The State has entered a new era, shifting its economic thrust from agriculture to industry. It has attracted a range of supporting industries, creating thousands of new jobs and hundreds of business opportunities are readily available for foreign and domestic investors.

High technology and heavy industries have made their way into Kedah and the State is stepping up its pace to become an industrialised state in 20 years' time.

Developing and upgrading physical infrastructures and other supporting services to the industrial sector and the existence of Kulim Hi-Tech Park, the first high technology park in Malaysia, gives added advantage in boosting the state's economic growth.



The landmark of Kulim Hi-Tech Park

The State is also taking advantage of its strategic location within the Northern Growth Triangle. Several successful private-sector's initiated business ventures are now in operation on a joint-venture basis between Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Although high priority is given to industrial development, agriculture and tourism sectors are also being emphasised upon.

